

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9732

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00735

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: FRG REACTIONS TO DOD SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS
ON RE-TARGETING OF US MISSILES

1. FMOD AND FONOFF CONTACTS TOLD US JANUARY 14 THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENTS TO THE OVERSEAS WRITERS ASSN. ON THE RE-TARGETING OF US MISSILES WAS WELCOMED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE MEMBERS OF THE FRG DEFENSE COMMUNITY. IN THEIR VIEW, THE STEP ADDED AN ADDITIONAL AND HIGHLY USEFUL ELEMENT OF FLEXIBILITY TO POSSIBLE US/NATO RESPONSES TO A SOVIET ATTACK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF 14/3 STRATEGY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BRIEFING PAPERS HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR SCHEEL AND LEBER WHICH COMMENT FAVORABLY ON THE RE-TARGETING STEP.

2. NEWSPAPERS GAVE STRAIGHT-FORWARD FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS. FEW EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED. HOWEVER, DIE WELT'S POL-MIL ANALYST,
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WOLFRAM VON RAVEN, COMMENTED AT "SCHLESINGER FIRED

A WARNING SIGNAL, A SHOT ACROSS THE BOW AS IT WERE, TO THE SOVIETS. THE WARNING GIVES THEM THE CHOICE OF RECOGNIZING THE ADVANTAGES OF ATOMIC STABILITY OR OF TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DISADVANTAGE OF ATOMIC INSTABILITY." IN THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, ADELBERT WEINSTEIN, PROBABLY GERMANY'S BEST POL-MIL NEWSPAPER WRITER, TOOK A DIFFERENT TACK. HE OBSERVED THAT SCHLESINGER'S IDEAS WERE NOT NEW AND HAD BEEN SAID IN A SIMILAR WAY BY MCNAMARA. THEY WERE INFLUENCED NOT BY STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS, BUT BY "CONCERN IN THE PENTAGON ABOUT SHRINKING DEFENSE BUDGETS AND LAY-OFFS IN THE ARMAMENT INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS BY GROWING AMERICAN DISLIKE OF EXCESSIVE DETENTE POLICY. ONE TAKES NOTE OF BUT DOES NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY AMERICA'S INTENTION TO TURN AWAY ONCE MORE FROM THE ANTI-CITY STRATEGY TO NUCLEAR SPOT TARGETTING."

3. COMMENT. IT IS CLEAR THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS IN THE LAST NPG MEETING PLAYED A USEFUL ROLE PREPARING FRG OFFICIALS FOR HIS PUBLIC REMARKS TO THE OVERSEAS WRITERS ASSN.

HILLENBRAND

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